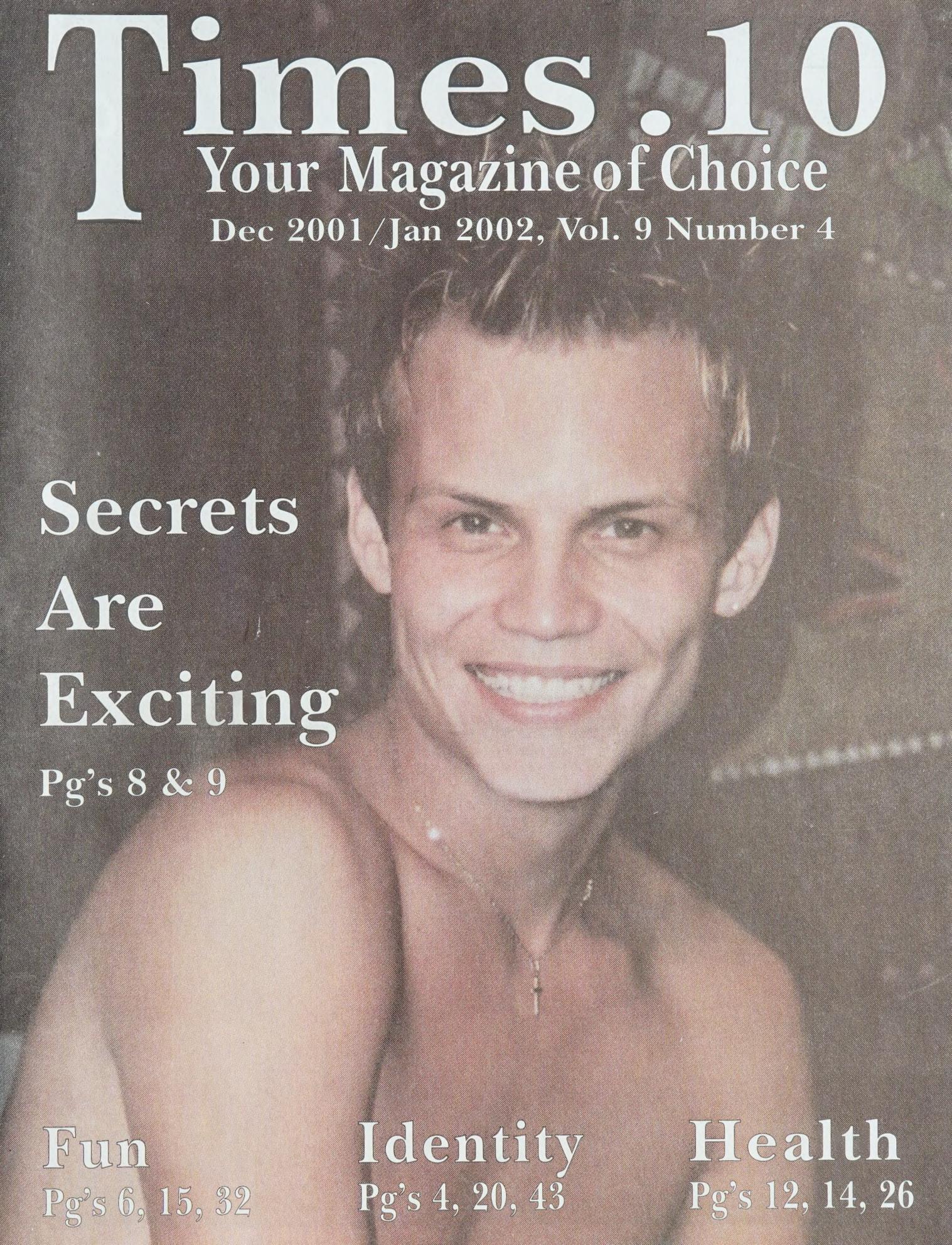


# Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

Dec 2001/Jan 2002, Vol. 9 Number 4



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Are  
Exciting

Pg's 8 & 9

Fun  
Pg's 6, 15, 32

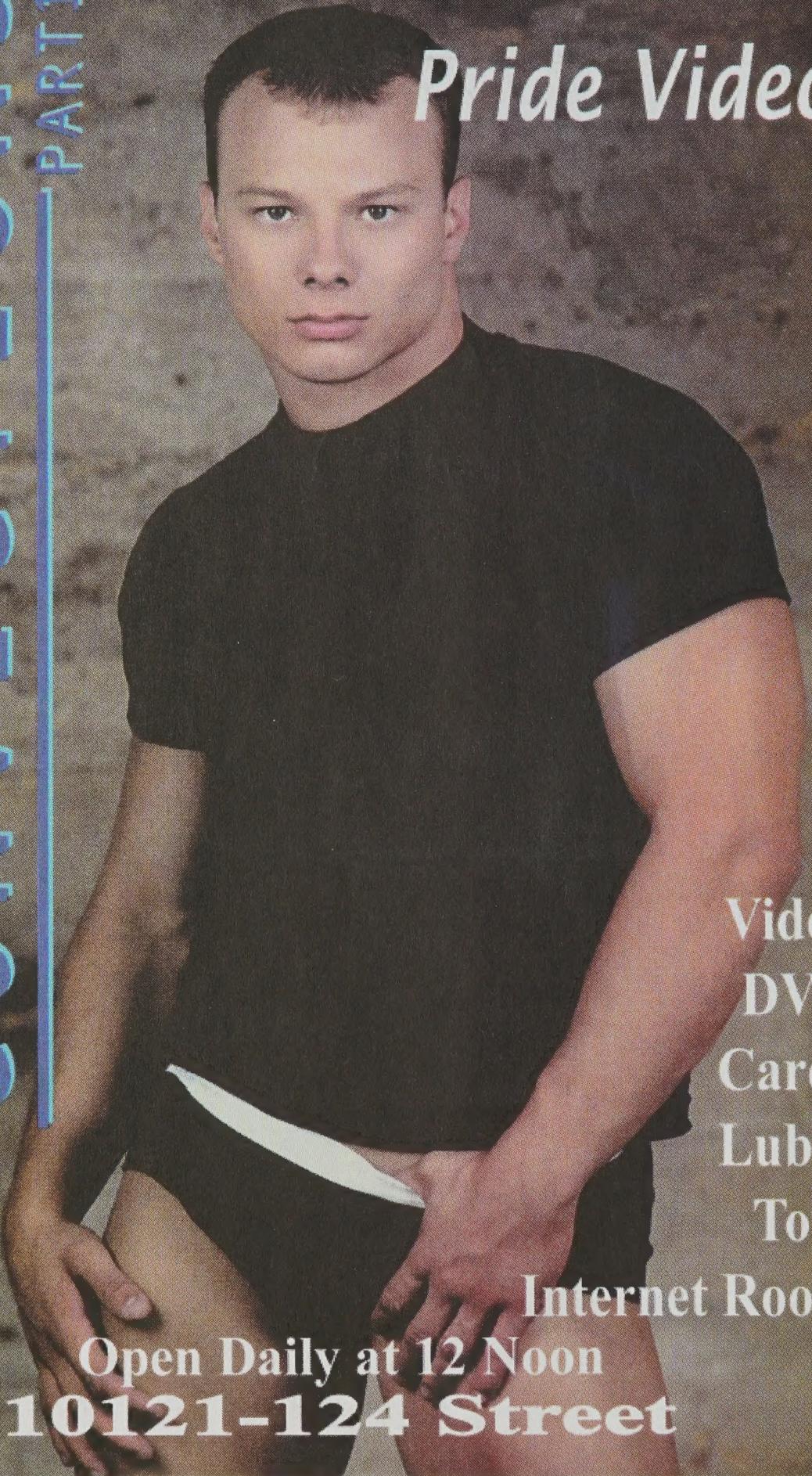
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# CONVICTIONS

PART 1

*Pride Video*



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# Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

Vol. 9 Number 4  
December 2001/January 2002  
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[www.times10.org](http://www.times10.org)

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why am I so addicted, depressed, anxious?  
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▼ am I a lesbian, gay, bi, transgendered?  
why do I keep ending relationships with violence ?  
▼ how can I survive my teenagers?  
▼ am I normal ?

**ELIZABETH MASSIAH, M.S.W., R.S.W.**

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# A Diamond in December

Six years ago, no one could have guessed that Empress XXVI would be this Ida girl. How could they have known? Six years ago, a boy named Darcy hadn't yet given in to Twiggy's persuading. That boy took some convincing to don a dress and appear in public, and even more convincing to perform on stage. However, Twiggy can be very persuasive, and so a queen was born.

It was in a dream that the name came. Well, Twiggy's dream. Twiggy named Ida like Twiggy has named so many other Big Onion girls. When Ida performed that first number, Jewels' "Foolish Games" on the stage of the old Buddys, who knows if Twiggy could have foreseen what would happen?

When Weena Luv stepped up as Empress XXIII, she brought her good friend Ida into the forefront of the Court by nominating her as her Princess (along with Siamese Sister Sticky Vicky). After that year, Ida stayed involved, at the Board level this time, as Secretary. Then she became Princess again, this time solo, and during that year, she realized the timing was right to run for Empress.

And so Saturday, August 25, 2001, Ida Claire became Empress XXVI of Edmonton: The Hopeless Diamond. Hopeless because her friend Tootsanelda thinks she's hopeless, and diamond because, well, diamonds are a girl's best friend.

So far, Ida feels the year is going well. With Ladonna as her Princess, Weena Luv as her In-Town Half Empress, and her good friend Bianca LaBouche of Calgary as her Out-of-Town Half Empress, she has the support of

dedicated friends. And that is just the female side of the Upper House. Bob (Prince), Jim (In-Town Half Emperor), and Cory (Out-of-Town Half Emperor) are all there to offer her whatever support she needs. Oh, and I am too.

Ida has noticed one drawback to being a queen. There's a negative stereotype floating around the community that queens draw too much media attention, that they should be showing that gay people are like everyone else. "What they don't realize", Ida says, "is that the Queens are like everybody else. From teachers to police officers, we all have a separate life. It is all about having fun and being able to laugh at yourself." And Edmonton Queens are a breed unto themselves. Ida loves that "Edmonton is a large diversified City, and the Gay community reflects that. The Court in Edmonton is Alberta's oldest gay organization, and the 2nd Court in all of Canada (after Vancouver). A lot of money has been raised in the last 26 years thanks to our community at large."

When I think of Ida, words like "energetic", "positive", and "amazing" spring to mind. Her philosophy for her year reflects that. In everything she does, she wants to be innovative, exciting, enjoyable, and, of course, to raise money for groups like Kairos House, GLCCE and Youth Understanding Youth. The Court, as a body, is in a position to benefit so many groups in this city, and Ida wants everyone to realize that that is the point of it all.



If the job of the Emperor is to support his Empress, Ida makes that burden light indeed. If the job is to escort your Empress when out on the town, I look better with such a lovely diamond on my arm. Whatever the job of the Emperor is though, the job of the Empress is to shine. In town and out of town. To represent her city. To raise money for her charity. To sparkle and radiate and glow. And Ida does that just by being her. The crown is nice, sure, but this diamond would shine without it. And that doesn't make her seem so hopeless after all. Rob Bigonion  
Emperor XXVI

## AIDS Fundraiser at The Roost...



Pictures viewable at [www.times10.org](http://www.times10.org) in the Archives Section

# Upcoming Events For Edmonton Vocal Minority

## *Community Christmas with EVM*

Thursday, December 13, 2001

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Unitarian Church of Edmonton  
12530-110 Ave

Edmonton Vocal Minority invites the entire community to a Christmas party.

Designed to be a family event, children are especially welcome. To help put you in the Christmas spirit, Canadiana, the Unitarian Church choir and EVM will offer some seasonal musical treats. There will also be a good old-fashioned carol sing along.

This event is offered as a gift to our community, and we encourage you to tell your friends and plan on attending.

Bring your Family and Friends an Old Fashion carol sing.

Please call 780-479-2038 for more details

Way Off Broadway  
Saturday, January 26, 2002  
Convocation Hall, U of A campus

Please call 780-479-2038

Hmm... it seems that some of those Broadway writers didn't quite get it right. Was it really Liesel that was after Kurt in the Sound of Music? What exactly does the song "I'm going to wash that man right out of my hair" refer to? We think we have figured it out; we invite you to join EVM as we walk a slightly different walk down the Great White Way

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Edmonton Vocal Minority  
Blair W. Croft

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How's Your Hole... family

# Secrets Are Exciting

By Rob Browatzke

Sometimes it doesn't take much to a turn a shiny happy Oz back into a confusing and neurotic Kansas.

Bruce Wayne had his one life as big Gotham billionaire, respected, admired, normal. And then he had his secret life as Batman, night-time crimefighter perpetually accompanied by Boy Wonder sidekick Robin. And while that is all

good in comics, the dual life thing isn't something that works in the real world.

I think every gay person endured the double life for at least a while, during that twilight zone phase between realizing you're gay and telling everyone you need to tell. It's trying and it's hard, and the relief when those two separate lives can finally merge back into one semblance of sanity is one of the big reasons for coming out at all. And just like coming out, honesty is the key to ending a double life.

The secret that makes people lead double lives can be as small and unimportant as cheating on a diet, or as big and threatening as cheating on a partner. Secrets make people crazy. They sneak about, they hide in

shadow, they lie. So why do people have secrets? Because secrets are exciting, sexy, fun. You get to sneak about, to hide in shadow, to lie. Of course, it doesn't seem as much fun when you get caught.

There are a few ways that those kind of double lives end. Any secret, it seems, must eventually come out of its own closet. Sometimes, the guilt and pressure of living the double life cause you to confess. Just like being gay. However, sometimes you simply get bogged down in your own lies and are discovered. Just like Mom finding the gay porn you had hidden under your mattress.

How the truth comes out is the key to how rocky merging those lives is going to be. If you do it on your own, you pick the time, the place,



Please join me for my

## Seasonal Open House

Come share the spirit of the season and celebrate the contribution volunteers make in our community.

Monday, December 17, 2001  
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
Odyssium  
11211 - 142 Street NW

Discoveryland, Sport II, and the newly opened Space Place will be available to my guests free of charge.

Donations for the Food Bank will be accepted.

# Anne McLellan, M.P.

working with you for edmonton west

and the way to tell the truth. You're prepared. You're ready. It's not easier, but it's less a shock to your system if you're the one to admit the diet isn't working, rather than being discovered horking down a bag of corn chips in the bathroom. It is definitely better than your partner finding the pictures of you and your mistress' red-hot camera session.

When that moment of truth arrives, it shows a lot about character. About honesty and integrity. About bravery. About looking a lie in the face and admitting it. About what's really important. About healing. We all have our guilty pleasures, those secret little things like being a Buffy addict or thinking Britney's pretty cool. Meaningless, trivial things that we keep to ourselves and never admit in public. It's the big secrets

that matter, that no matter how you try, eventually come back to haunt



you.

Just like coming out, that moment of

discovery is never easy. There are tears and screams and fear and pain, but in the end, truth necessitates acceptance. When you've shown your hand, you really can't get away with bluffing anymore. And just like coming out, confessing that secret, whatever it is, frees you. It allows you to put your life back into order, to re-build relationships on firmer and more honest ground, to heal. And you know what, I might have just a bit more respect for Bruce Wayne if every so often, he'd admit to being Batman.

(Rob will be back in the next issue of *Times .10* with his regular *Monthly Neurosis* column. For more neurotic ramblings, inside jokes, and pointed lectures, check out Rob on the net at <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/browra>)

**Saturday December 15th, 2001**  
**Westmount Hall, 10970 - 127th Street**

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**Mixed Christmas Dinner and Dance**

*Cocktails @ 6:30 pm*

*Three-Course Dinner @ 7 pm*

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*Dance 9 pm - 1 am with DJ Licorice Whip*

**Non-Smoking**

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*Warm mixed berries bread  
pudding with brandy and  
eggnog cream*

~  
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volunteer, leave a message at  
482-1794*



# A Government SO Reluctant

By Laurie Blakeman  
Liberal MLA

Okay folks, you thought December and January was for celebrating the holidays and then recovering from them?

Well yes, but you will also have the opportunity to 'have your say' to the government on the Family Law Statutes Review. Some 90 statutes will be examined over nineteen weeks and it is under this review that the discussion of same sex partnerships, remedies and benefits can take place. Carefully controlled though it will be, the review will allow for input in several ways.

➤ You can get the paper version of the Workbook, fill it out and send it in. Call my office; at some point I will have copies there.

- You can fill out the workbook on-line at the special website. (As I write this, the exact website address is not announced yet, but go to [www.justice.gov.ab.ca](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca) and look for the link to Family Statutes Review site).
- Focus groups will be brought together across the province, but participation will be by invitation. If you are really interested in participating on a focus group, let me know ASAP and I will suggest your name to the Minister of Justice.
- Or you can simply write out your thoughts and send them in for consideration.

The government's focus for this is not inclusion of same sex partnerships (no surprise there). They are looking to update these laws as many have not been reviewed in decades and are woefully archaic. Additionally, in some cases, they need to add in constitutionally mandated changes. But this will be your only opportunity to have your say on inclusion of, and recognition for, GLBT domestic relationships, especially those with economic interdependence.

Now, as we know, our intrepid Julie Lloyd has continued to take cases on to higher courts to challenge Alberta laws for inclusion of same sex and was successful in challenging the Intestate Succession law. The government was

supposed to change the law by a given date, but has gone back to court to say they cannot do it in the allotted time. They asked for an extension to June, but the Judge only granted the extension until early April 2002.

I have met with the Minister of Justice and, in both my role as MLA for Edmonton-Centre and as Official Opposition Critic for Justice, have pressed for details on this review and on why the government is so reluctant to recognize the inevitable and get on with the work of treating gay and lesbian partnerships equally. The Minister would like to do the review of all 90 some-odd statutes and then any resulting legislative change all together, but given a promise of a nineteen week consultation, and a deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup> for changes to Intestate Succession, I doubt that's going to happen. By the time the consultation is complete (later in April or May depending on when they start), and legislation is

written to amend existing statutes, I think it won't come up in the Spring 2002 session, more likely the Fall 2002 session. In the meantime, the Intestate Succession must be changed before 01 April 2002. So we will see an amending bill to this statute come up in the Spring.

So Happy Holidays everyone, a Merry Festive Season, may you spend time with good friends, family and good food, get lots of lovely presents and have a great time! And please watch for the Family Law Statutes consultation - get involved. Help me out by registering your opinions on the website or workbook. And send me a copy too please.

Remember my office has moved to #3, 9908-109 Street, T5K 1H5, same phone 414-0743. Check the website [www.laurieblakeman.com](http://www.laurieblakeman.com) or email [blakeman@oanet.com](mailto:blakeman@oanet.com)



erba

**Next Meetings will  
be held Tuesday, 11th  
of December & January 8th**

**Place Secrets Bar & Grill  
10249-107 Street  
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Bring business cards  
Meet new people**

# Commentary

By Dennis Cambly  
Managing Editor



## A Touch of Respect

It does not take a very clever or eager mind to realize that the best way to get things done is to show a little respect. We are very fortunate to have so many people in our community who are willing to spend a lot of time volunteering for various organizations in our city. You can do yourself a favour by getting involved with any one of these groups and assisting with the day-to-day operations. A community group is very much the same as operating a business of any kind. Many people join groups and have new ideas and it might be wise to see if some of them will work before throwing them out. Any group constantly goes through changes and that is simply a fact of life. Some things that worked years

ago no longer work in the world today. It is tough for some to realize that and it leads to power struggles that end up doing more harm than good. There are people who are not willing to make changes and all they do is hold up good ideas that will lead to better days ahead of us.

I read an article somewhere recently that Svend Robinson mentioned that it might be a good idea to listen to what the people might want to say when it comes to revitalizing the New Democrats in Canada. Yesterday's people that have been running the party promptly shut him down. It does not take a genius to look at the popular support and realize that the New Democrat Party is finished.

The "Reformed" Alliance could take a lesson and open their eyes to the world today to see what happens when you mix politics with religion. It is okay to end something rather than continue lying to the people and pretending everything is okay.

This same kind of thinking or lack of it is what makes our community sometimes run around in circles. It was so gratifying to see so many people at the last Pride Week 2002 Committee meeting. The vicious circle has finally

been broken and everyone is welcome to participate and bring lots of ideas. With Roz and Geoff elected to head things up we have people who are not afraid to get the show on the road. A promise of accountability and transparency was put to all those who attended and this is extended to everyone who will be involved with Pride Week 2002. What a wonderful change of attitude after the past two years. Groups and businesses are encouraged to attend the next meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a full-page notice about the meeting in this issue of Times .10.

We have entered into a world of new challenges and some of the old ideas will no longer work for us. Just as people moved out of

the depression during the 1930s and moved into a World War, so it would seem we have done a similar thing. No matter what you might think of the current world situation please be kind to our military and let them know we care deeply. It is demeaning to the people who are willing to put their lives on the line to defend our freedom and way of life to do anything otherwise.

Respect is something that is easy to say but more difficult to show. In the end is this not what everyone is truly looking for on this small blue planet?

Of all the struggles our community has worked towards, is it not a simple respect for one another, which makes people less afraid and more compassionate?

**Notice**  
**HIV Edmonton**  
**has scheduled**  
**the**  
**Black & White**  
**for Saturday**  
**April 13, 2002**  
**at the**  
**Winspear**

# A View from the Top

Sir Scott

## The Philosophy of Leather

Last month, Sir Michael wrote about the importance of foundations within our community. After reading his article, I began reviewing my foundations and rereading my articles that I have written over the last couple of years. I found that one issue had been alluded to but never

mentioned directly, and that is the issue of respect.

Respect, to me, is a three-fold thing. Respect of



self, respect of others and finally respect of community.

Respect of self is the most

difficult of all as it provides the foundation for the rest to follow. It requires us to fully be aware of our faults and our strengths, and to fully accept them. It allows us to integrate the safe sane and consensual doctrine into our lives, and it allows us to fully understand the concepts of honesty, communication and trust, all of which I have written about in previous articles. Respect for self is the foundation of this and many more characteristics that most leatherfolk hold in great value.

Respect of others is nothing more than an extension of self-respect. I have heard the comment frequently

offered that leather folk are very friendly and non-judgmental, despite our appearance. The old maxim of treating others as you would have them treat you makes a great deal of sense to us in this community. Simply put, if you want respect, you have to give respect.

Finally, respect for the community. This entails a broader understanding of where we, as a leather community, fit into our gay community and the world at large. One very good example is the recent election of Mr. Edmonton Leather, Geoff Williams, to the position of co-chair of the 2002 Pride committee. He is living the ideal that we strive to by giving



## DON'T BE ALONE ON CHRISTMAS

There is nothing worse than being alone on the holidays.

We have a cure for that.

Gay Men's Outreach Crew's "Talking Together" (Sunday Evening Group) is proud to be hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Dinner & Social.

It is to be held on Christmas Day from 2pm until 8pm at the Gay & Lesbian Community Centre Of Edmonton (10612-124 Street).

All gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their family and friends are welcome. This is not a potluck. You need only bring yourself. So if you find yourself alone on Christmas Day, please come join us.

We look forward to seeing you.

GLCCE (780)488-3234



of his time and energy to create something for our community.

Respect is the foundation that allows us to adhere to the ideals that our community demands of us. And when you think about it, if you have this, then you really don't have to wear a stitch of leather to be a leather person. That, more than anything, defines my philosophy of what leather is about.

On a completely different topic, Northern Chaps will celebrate 18 years (yes we are finally legal) in February with our annual Black Ice event. At this point, details are vague but posters will

start to appear in January for this event that has been a regular appearance on the Edmonton calendar. I will step down as Executive member this year and allow some others to guide our club; however, I will continue to write this article. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for allowing me to serve our community for the last 2 years. It has been a slice, boys and girls.

Have a very happy holiday season all  
Yours Respectfully,  
in leather

Sir Scott

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# Holidaze

By Rob at GMOC



Thanks to all of you, an early holiday present arrived for GMOC. GMOC's "Black and Blue" fundraiser held last month at Buddys, was not only a brilliant success and loads of fun, but also an extremely worthwhile endeavor for projects needed by Our Community in the face of cutbacks and other limitations. A special "Thank You" to all GMOC volunteers, and especially the staff at Buddys, for making the fundraiser a huge success and what we hope will become an annual event.

With the upcoming holiday season, it is a good time to remind ourselves that we all need to be a little extra careful. The holidays are a time for well-earned rest, relaxation, gift giving, and spending time with family and most importantly, members of Our Community. Sometimes our get-togethers include consuming large amounts of alcohol.

As I too enjoy a good drink, I'm not here to preach about the dangers of alcohol. We do need to remind ourselves, however, that drinking does affect our judgment. After an evening on the town, when passion begins to smolder, many of us may become less likely to ask "Have you ever had an STD?" or "You need to put on a condom." With the rising

incidence of HIV and other STDs, we need to drink responsibly. A few tips for partying safely during this Holiday season are:

1. Never drink alone. Drink responsibly with a friend. Trust each other and look after one other.
2. Never drink and drive. Take turns amongst friends being the evening's "designated driver."
3. Always have a condom in your pocket, or grab one when you get to the club before you start drinking. (Incidentally, Buddys has them for free!) It is much more handy to have a condom ready-to-go than finding one once the flame has been ignited.
4. Be aware that alcohol is a depressant. Don't let a sudden "down-in-the-dumps" mood stop you from protecting yourself.
5. Although this article speaks more towards drinking, it is important to remember that drugs such as ecstasy, meth and/or other similar substances also impair judgment when engaging in sexual activity.

On one other note, the "Holidaze" are a wonderful time to be with family and friends. However, some of you may not have such a privilege to have people around us during this time of year. "Talking Together," a men's discussion group with GMOC, will be hosting a free dinner Christmas day for *anyone* at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. Come and join in the festivities! Call 488-3234 for more details.

In summary, as much as you may be craving a good drink and a mind-blowing sexual experience this holiday season, just be extra mindful about the potential risks. That's all GMOC is asking. After all, we do want

all our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered friends to be around to help us celebrate again next year.

Take care and Happy Holidays from GMOC!

## A Note from The Proofster

For those that don't know who I am, I'm the one that reads your articles, and does all the correcting (some more than others, right Joe? <grin>) before it goes to the printer. I usually don't claim perfection, so there are the odd things that slip by me.

This is a quick note to wish you all the best for the festive season that's approaching all too quickly. However you celebrate, enjoy

yourselfs! If you have a little too much to drink (I never do, of course <smirk>), call a cab. You'll get home in one piece.

On another note, for those that are mentioning Jim Brown's club on Jasper Ave. at 117 Street, the correct spelling is BUDDYS.

There's no apostrophe in the name, or so I'm told. As always, I stand to be corrected. Since I've been doing this, the error level has gone down dramatically. I'm glad to see it, since it makes my job easier. I haven't had a "brain ache" in quite a while. Happy Holidays to you all, and all the best in the New Year!

Walter

Your neighbourhood proofer  
Feel free to email me at: warume@oanet.com with any comments you have.

## Evolution of House

**Fridays**  
Featuring Alvaro &  
3 Rotating Guests

**Edmonton's Finest  
Soulful House DJ's**

**Upstairs**

**\$2.00 Highballs  
10-11PM**

Private Members Club  
10345-104 Street  
426-3150





# **2002 Edmonton Pride Committee General Meeting**

**Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE)  
Suite 103, 10612 - 124 Street**

## **Main topics:**

1. Registration of representatives and alternates from community groups and businesses with a stake in the success of Edmonton Pride 2002
2. Pride committee vision, mission, objectives and structure
3. Budget for 2002
4. Theme for 2002
5. Event scheduling

## **Your pride committee executive:**

Roz Ostendorf – [rosten@shaw.ca](mailto:rosten@shaw.ca), co-chair

Geoff Williams – [geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca), co-chair

Rob Bradford – [carford@shaw.ca](mailto:carford@shaw.ca), treasurer

Marsha Black - [hagar@telusplanet.net](mailto:hagar@telusplanet.net), secretary

## **Edmonton Pride 2002 is from:**

Friday, June 14, 2002 until Sunday, June 23, 2002.

The parade will be on Saturday, June 22, 2002.

Pride updates available at <http://edmc.net/glcce/>

# Recognized Community Builders

## Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 462-8896.

## Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail [showrish@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:showrish@compusmart.ab.ca).

## Alcoholics Anonymous

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

## Arctic Front Runners

We are a group of gay and lesbian runners that meet on Sunday mornings for a run on the river valley trail system. We are a recreational group and runners of all speeds are welcome. The length of our runs varies from about 7 to 10 km. We yak, laugh, and socialize during the runs and often go for brunch together afterward. During the spring,

summer, and fall, we meet beneath the electronic sign at 87 Ave and 114 St on the University campus at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Bill at 436-7892.

## AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet.

## Badminton League

The badminton league is designed for men and women of all ages and experience. Players who are interested can participate in Calgary's Western Cup Tournament during the Easter Long Weekend. For further information, please contact Bruce at 453-1244 (email: [cwyteddy@powersurfr.com](mailto:cwyteddy@powersurfr.com)) or Dennis at 471-4409.

## The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at Buddys Night Club. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

## Brethren Mennonite Council

## For Gay, Lesbian and

Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Heather at 987-4974. email address [jonrach@msn.com](mailto:jonrach@msn.com)

## Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

## Classics

A social group for lesbians over 40. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.. Call Donna at 456-1008

## Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. For information contact, Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: [pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca).

## Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches,

and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, Ron by e-mail at [mercury@planet.eon.net](mailto:mercury@planet.eon.net), or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

## Edmonton Rainbow Business

Association (ERBA): Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422 6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

## Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: [evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca), on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/>, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

## Equal=Alberta [Edmonton]

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton] is a group of concerned citizens working to ensure gay and lesbian Albertans remain protected under Alberta's Human Rights Legislation and to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans. Call: (780) 488-3234 Fax (780) 482-2855. By Email: [equalalberta@hotmail.com](mailto:equalalberta@hotmail.com)

## Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. 1) C-Recreation - contact Alex at 488-8484; 2) Beach (summer) – info to follow; 3) B-Intermediate - contact Darcy at 437-6698; Email: [volleyball@queerseek.com](mailto:volleyball@queerseek.com) Website: FTB Volleyball <http://www.queerseek.com/freetobe/>

## Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Cafe on Whyte at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. E-mail Jared at [rainbowboy2000@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowboy2000@hotmail.com)

## Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC)

GMOC is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health

concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on GMOC workshops and other activities, please call Rob at (780) 488-0564

## HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780)488-5742 or contact us by email at [mail@hivedmonton.com](mailto:mail@hivedmonton.com). Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>

## Illusions Social Club

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club, Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

## Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations,

which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is:

[wildrosecourt@yahoo.com](mailto:wildrosecourt@yahoo.com). Visit our Website is at: Wild Rose Court <http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/>

## ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of Interfaith Centre is to enhance well-being by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. This will lead to an increased understanding of the spiritual and psychosocial needs of those affected by HIV & AIDS. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at [icarealberta@aol.com](mailto:icarealberta@aol.com)

## Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p.m. e-mail at [Lambdachurch@aol.com](mailto:Lambdachurch@aol.com)

## Liatris Society

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, Transgendered and straight

people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information, contact [liatrisociety@hotmail.com](mailto:liatrisociety@hotmail.com) or William at 474-7328.

## Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community met for a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

## Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: [livepos@telusplanet.net](mailto:livepos@telusplanet.net).

## Long Yang Club Edmonton Chapter (Group events pending)

## Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer

individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: [lylemillang@powersurfr.com](mailto:lylemillang@powersurfr.com)

#### Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters GLBT club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: [http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves\\_edm/home.htm](http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm). 2. E-mail: [makingwaves\\_edm@yahoo.com](mailto:makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com) 3. Phone: Warren 780-718-7598. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

#### Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

Closed until further notice.

#### NLA Edmonton

The National Leather Association is the largest and most active pansexual organization in the world. It serves the Leather, SM, Fetish communities. We are an all inclusive organization

made up of fun-loving, caring, educated and focused people. Join us at our meetings held upstairs at The Roost, 10345-104 Street every 3rd Thursday of the month.

#### Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Buddy's Nite Club the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: [Northernchaps@telusplanet.net](mailto:Northernchaps@telusplanet.net)

#### Northern Lights Square Dance Club

We are part of the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. Everyone is invited to participate in this non-discriminatory, supportive, fun and stimulating square dance club. Singles and couples are welcome. No special clothing is needed. Comfortable shoes are recommended. We meet every Wednesday, starting September 12, at 7:00P.M., St. Kevin school, 10005-84St., Edmonton. For more information contact Denis at 780-922-4355. E-mail us at: [bflorapro@aol.com](mailto:bflorapro@aol.com)

#### Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Wednesday and Saturday, September to April, at Gateway Bowling Centre.

For more information, please call (780) 426-6311. WebPages at: <http://www.geocities.com/northerntitans/>

#### O2 Curling

We meet on Fridays 6:30 OR 9:00 p.m. at the Ottewell Curling Club. All skill levels, singles or teams are welcome. Call 479-0211 or E-mail us at: [1deeka@hotmail.com](mailto:1deeka@hotmail.com)

#### Open Door Club

Grant MacEwan College group. Anyone is welcome, including students, college employees, people from the area, perspective students, alumni or people who are interested in meeting other people. Our WebPages are at: <http://www.geocities.com/opendoorclub/> or E-mail us at:

#### Out at the Symphony

A unique social event for gay men. Meet other music lovers on Saturday evenings for concerts of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Masters mini-series 1. Enjoy special guest speakers, reserved cafe tables at intermission and post-show fun. Contact Paul at 428-1108 ext. 240 for more information.

#### Outdoors Club

Have you an interest in backcountry hiking/ camping? If so, the Outdoors Club is for you. Our purpose is to get people together for hiking/ camping trips, primarily within the Rockies and surrounding area. The

activities of this group will be member focused and member initiated.

Individuals at all skill levels are welcome to participate. For information, please contact us at 780-430-0759 or e-mail: [glb\\_outdoors@hotmail.com](mailto:glb_outdoors@hotmail.com) or visit our WebPages at [http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~bdick/glb\\_outdoors](http://www.ee.ualberta.ca/~bdick/glb_outdoors)

#### OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the second cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail:

[outreach@ualberta.ca](mailto:outreach@ualberta.ca). They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A <http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach>

#### Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

#### Yours Mine Ours and Us

Parenting support group for glbt parents, partners. Meets the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 - 9 p.m. Small donations for room costs. Issues of parenting, sharing skills, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at 415-5434 or Garry at 426-6311 for more information. This is peer

support, not a therapy group, nor a dating service. WebPages at: Yours Mine Ours Us [http://www.geocities.com/ymou\\_1999/](http://www.geocities.com/ymou_1999/)

Youth Understanding Youth  
We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the gay and lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: [yuyedm@hotmail.com](mailto:yuyedm@hotmail.com). Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth <http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/>

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

Volleyball Recreation League

We meet every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at McCauley Elementary-Jr. High School, 9538-107 Avenue. Updates available at: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/ascust/vball/crec.htm>

Volleyball Intermediate League

We meet every Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. at

Londonderry Jr. High School, 7104-144 Avenue. Updates available at: Volleyball Intermediate

Womyn's Volleyball League

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association has initiated a womyn's only league for the first time this year. The season runs until May 28 and new members are welcome at any point. A drop-in fee of \$5 or a registration fee of \$35 is in effect. Monday nights 7 - 9 p.m. at Highlands Jr. High School (11509 - 62 St. - please use entrance off parking lot. For more information, please contact: Pam at [459-9370 p\\_mcewin@hotmail.com](mailto:p_mcewin@hotmail.com) or Jenn at 424-5100 [grnwolf@hotmail.com](mailto:grnwolf@hotmail.com)

Womonspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Womonspace <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

Writers Club  
(Group events pending)

## Regional Organizations

AIDS Yellowknife  
Website: AIDS Yellowknife <http://www.ssimicro.com/aids/>

Freedom Fort McMurray

A social Support group for Gays/ Lesbian/Bisexual &

Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiring into membership, please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member, call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

Grande Prairie  
Gay and Lesbian  
Community, Box 1492,  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V  
4Z3. E-mail:  
[gpgayorg@hotmail.com](mailto:gpgayorg@hotmail.com)

Northern Rainbow Youth  
A support group for High School students. Our email address is

[nry13\\_18@hotmail.com](mailto:nry13_18@hotmail.com). Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counsellor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

Out North  
Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm> E-mail: [out\\_north99@hotmail.com](mailto:out_north99@hotmail.com)

Your group can be listed here as a community service of Times 10. Please try to keep your listing updated. This is not the place to make announcements of upcoming events, just general information and a contact. E-mail your listing to [groups@times10.org](mailto:groups@times10.org)

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*Wednesday's*



**Private Members Club**  
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**Amateur Strip**

# Gay & Lesbian Ski Week

## Celebrates 10th Year

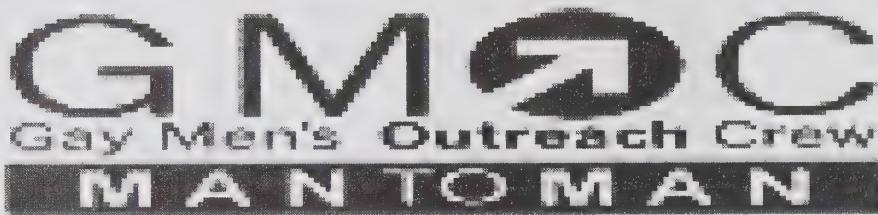
Gay and lesbian ski week will be celebrating its 10th anniversary from February 2-11, 2002 at Whistler, British Columbia.

Generally referred to as

Altitude, over 3000 people are expected ski, snowboard, dance, shop, party and generate more revenue than any other event at Whistler.

The week-long festival opens at the award winning host hotel, the Sheraton Le Soleil, followed by a spectacular dance party on Saturday, February 2, in Vancouver. Events that continue throughout the week at

Whistler include snowboarding and skiing adventures, fashion shows, a costumed scavenger hunt, a beach party, outdoor BBQs, cabarets, apres-ski parties, a charity auction and a comedy night with top name performers. The week climaxes with an out-of-the world dance party extravaganza at the Whistler Convention Centre called the Snow Ball.



### New Workshop on:

#### \*\*\*COMING OUT\*\*\*

Tuesday February 12, and ongoing for 6 weeks.

- Free & Confidential
- Open up to 16 participants who are gay or bisexual men.
  - Facilitated by two professional facilitators
- Topics may include (but not limited to) safer sex, coming out, relationships, community.

Call Rob at The Gay & Lesbian Community Centre (**GMOC Office**) at **488-0564** or email: [gmoc@interbaun.com](mailto:gmoc@interbaun.com).

**Join our online club!**

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/edmontongaymensoutreachcrew>

"Our bookings have been steady and strong in spite of the September 11th incident," explains Altitude 2002 producer Brent Benaschak. "Leave it to the gay community to pave the way in breaking the barriers of fear." Unlike the non-profit Vancouver Pride Society's festival in the summer, Altitude's gay and lesbian ski week is a private venture spearheaded and co-ordinated by Benaschak and his own company Out On The Slopes Productions.

Benaschak envisioned gay ski week at Whistler a mere decade ago and worked

persistently to achieve the success it is today. As a small businessman and promoter,



Benaschak recognized the affluent and recreationally inclined demographic within the North American gay community.

Skiing and snowboarding at Whistler had never been marketed to them on a grand scale with all the festive

trimmings the gay community likes to experience. Within a few years, Tourism Whistler and the Whistler Chamber of Commerce threw their support behind him. Now, there are over 20 partnering sponsors ranging from hotels, media and airlines to products and services - all knowing the strength and value of the gay dollar.

"We've seen such tremendous growth in the five years that we've done Altitude's tour and travel business," echoes Marc Telio from Bliss Tours, the designated tour operator. "On average, Altitude customers stay the full week

and rent three bedroom condos in four star properties." It's a well-known fact that gay consumers travel frequently, are extremely brand loyal, and have a large disposable income.

The Altitude 2002 promotion tour has announced that it will be in Edmonton on Saturday, December 8th, 2001, at The Roost at 10345 104th Street.

Contact:  
Brent Benaschak  
Producer  
Out On The Slopes  
Productions  
T 604-899-6209 F 604-899-6214  
[www.outontheslopes.com](http://www.outontheslopes.com)

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# Egale Renews Call For Hate Crimes Protection

EGALE, a national organization that advances equality and justice for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people, and their families, across Canada, renewed calls for action today in the wake of the brutal murder last Saturday of gay Vancouver resident Aaron Webster.

"We join with others in the B.C. community in expressing our deepest sympathy and solidarity for the friends and family of Aaron Webster," said Dale Akerstrom, an EGALÉ Board Member from Vancouver. "This was a brutal act of hatred, and a tragic reflection of the violence and animosity which some members of our society still harbour towards those who are gay."

NDP MP Svend Robinson introduced a Private Member's Bill yesterday that would include sexual orientation among the grounds protected by hate crimes legislation. In

response, Justice Minister Anne McLellan said she would "consider" amending the Criminal Code, "if there is general agreement" by the provinces. EGALÉ expressed its support for Svend Robinson's initiative.

"The inaction by the federal government on this issue is shameful," said John Fisher, Executive Director of EGALÉ. "The Justice Minister said she would introduce amendments to protect lesbians and gays from hate crimes in 1999, following the gay-bashing of a student in Fredericton. She has done nothing. There is no need for 'consultation'. Violence, hatred and murder are unacceptable, full stop.



This violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Canadians is implicitly condoned by the federal government as long as we are excluded from hate crimes legislation."

"We call upon the federal government to act now to abolish the 'homosexual panic' defence, and extend hate propaganda provisions to include sexual orientation," added Akerstrom. "We also support active liaison between police units across the country and our communities, including phone lines to report

hate crimes. Greater inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered issues in educational curricula is also essential so that homophobic attitudes are not reinforced through the school system."

- 30 -

For further information:

Dale Akerstrom, Board Member:  
604-666-3605

John Fisher, Executive Director, EGALÉ:

1-888-204-7777; 613-230-1043



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30's, 40's & 50's Hollywood Glam

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Party

Buffet

Party Favors

A

Glamorous

Evening

Members

\$7.00

Non-Members

\$10.00

No Advance

Tickets!



# World AIDS Day

## Saturday, December 1

I Care...Do You?

HIV/AIDS & STD  
Info Fair  
1 – 5 PM



14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
AIDS Memorial Service  
And  
Candlelight Vigil  
6 PM

With special music by Edmonton Vocal Minority  
Refreshments to follow

All events will be held at  
Garneau United Place  
11148-84 Avenue

Hosted by  
ICARE  
(Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education)  
And  
Garneau United Church



## Kids Christmas Party

Sun. Dec. 16  
3pm to 7pm

*All Free!*

Presents  
Food  
Kids drinks  
Kids Karaoke  
Santa



Private Members Club  
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426 7150



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# Speaking Of Normal.®

By **Liz Massiah, MSW,**

**RSW**

**Member, Clinical  
Social Work Registry**

**And Gordon Portman,  
award-winning  
playwright.**

Last month we wrote about the middle of love ... what happens after its beginning and before its end (which are both written about endlessly). We talked about the hard work that goes on in relationships when the initial glow has worn off, when real life has set in with a vengeance, when we discover our issues, and where there's hopefully lots of time for growing and understanding and maturing and change before the end of relationship, be it when death do indeed do you part or some other circumstance pops up. I asked for comments, suggestions from readers... not a one, not a word. Don't know what that means, if anything, it is just interesting to note. Would still love to hear them, though.

But this month, on a very different note, a look at what some people might call the middle of hate, or anger, or aggression, or rage.

I made a recent visit to CFB Suffield,

down by Medicine Hat. On this enormous army base, our Canadian soldiers were on a training exercise, practicing their skills. Some of us who work as caregivers with soldiers - post tour-of-duty and otherwise - were invited to spend twenty four hours there, wearing some of their uniform (I cut quite a figure in an army parka and helmet), riding around in army trucks (on which the lowest step to get in was almost at my waist height), taking food to soldiers, eating with them, even sleeping in the same tent with ten men ...

... now that gave this little lesbian a start when I woke up in the morning and realized that not only was I surrounded by men, they were mostly naked in their sleeping bags. Had a good laugh with some of my het colleagues who are unattached about it being a long time since any of us had slept with one man, let alone a whole tent full. And for all you gay men out there who immediately go to that porn video in your imagination let me just say this ...

## Muscle Maid

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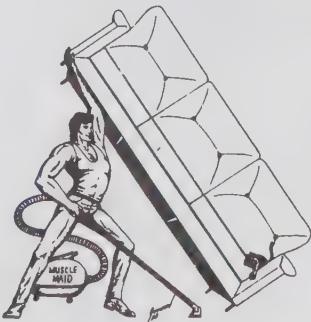
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Move In / Out Cleaning

Window Cleaning

Carpet & Upholstery  
Cleaning



For a free in home estimate call

**440-3258**

An advertisement for 'theatres of diversity' featuring two movie theaters: Garneau Theatre and Princess Theatre. The Garneau Theatre logo is on the left, and the Princess Theatre logo is on the right. Both logos include the address and phone number. Below the logos is a 24-hour movie info-line number and a website address. The 'MLT' logo is in the bottom right corner.

... and you thought Dorothy had a great fantasy.

Anyway ... I stood there on the openness of the prairie, watching the soldiers working long hours to prepare for the next part of the exercise. This meant, on this particular day, digging anti tank trenches. What first struck me was the keenness of the soldiers, the willingness to work, the physicality of the work – up and down, in and out, again and again. What also struck me was the rotten equipment: it always seemed that this was broken, that was broken, the part was not available so try it this way, try it that way, it still won't work, try again ...

And then as I watched the soldiers digging trenches designed to stop tanks as they crested hills my thoughts went to what I would want if the tanks coming over the hill belonged to Hitler or to the Taliban. It struck me that I would want the soldiers looking after me to have the best of everything: in the crunch, only the best and lots of it will do, not trucks

that break down regularly, or radios that don't work, or not enough ammunition to practice with ... which leads me to something I didn't really realize until this little sojourn brought it home to me. Seldom do the soldiers get to practice with live ammunition – the costs are huge for the real stuff. I don't recall exact figures, but some of the live ammunition cost \$ 5 each or more a round. Now, let me say up front that I personally I abhor guns, weapons and using any form of violence to solve problems. Basically, it usually seems to be using the same tactic that caused the problem in the first place. But do I think we should be spending money on ammunition? I wish we did not have to, but now I feel we do. I could only learn to be a psychotherapist by working with real people, surgeons at some point have to do actually cut into a live person, tellers have to actually ring in sales on the cash register in front of real customers in a busy store ... so, it seems to me that we need to demand that these women and men

be well funded and that the funds be well managed. They have a job, and they need to do it well.

It's a job that needs to be done at the same time as us non-combatants (pacifists?) demand strong action to rid the world of land mines, to end the abuse of kids everywhere, to protect the land and creatures everywhere ... they are ultimately, it seems to me, the same fights. In other words, to use one of my favourite – and very useful – phrases, there's room, and a need for both. It's just that in many ways, the balance seems to be quite far off.

In therapy I sometimes work with images of our amazon and warrior selves and the need for those parts of ourselves to be in balance with our clown, our lover and all our other selves. The world of violence provides an outlet for our warriors, and it often seems to me that in many ways we have an exaggerated notion of that distorted role. No wonder we are in so many messes.

But in other ways, it seems to me that the women and men who live the warrior role in the military, regardless of what we think of the role, deserve only the best along with huge doses of common sense, practicality, respect and compassion. ... just as the rest of us who have a job, to many a difficult and unpopular job, and who just want to be able to do it well.

Finally: a special thanks to the lesbigay folks who are members of the Canadian Forces. Now that is a tough row to hoe and you make me proud just knowing you are there.

Questions, comments ? Try my e mail – [emassiah@interbaun.com](mailto:emassiah@interbaun.com).

This column is the opinion of the writer's alone. And client related information is well disguised to protect identities. It is not meant to replace consultation with a qualified, accountable professional psychotherapist.

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# Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria:

Bureaucrats Betray People with AIDS in Poor Countries

AIDS activists from around the world demand the Global Fund subsidize cheap AIDS Drugs

(Brussels) International AIDS activists and medical organizations confront the opening day of meetings of the Board for the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria, in Brussels. Activists are concerned by the clear lack of commitment among Global Fund decision makers to financing AIDS treatment in poor countries.

Set to launch on December 15, 2001 the Global Fund is currently poised to finance treatment only for diseases cheaper to treat than HIV, despite public health evidence that AIDS treatment is cost effective and is a key aspect of an effective response to the AIDS pandemic. The activists insist that access to AIDS treatment is a fundamental human right that the Global Fund must help fulfill, as 30 million people with HIV are currently living with no access to affordable medication.

Activists from 10 countries have gathered in Brussels to meet with Global Fund Board members to demand funding for AIDS drugs, including antiretrovirals. The activists report that Global Fund decision-makers have already made clear that funding HIV treatment in poor countries will not be a priority for the Fund, despite the desperate worldwide need for AIDS drugs, and the tremendous gap in access to AIDS treatment that spurred the creation of the Global Fund by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in April, 2001.

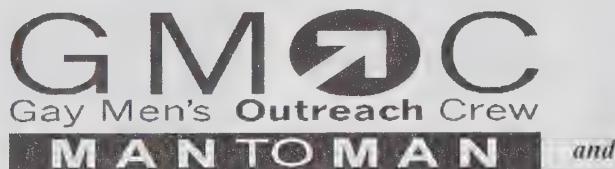
"The Global AIDS TB and Malaria Fund is turning into a slow, under-funded bureaucracy that will not be able to produce results. 27,000 people will die today because they lack access to affordable treatment for AIDS, tuberculosis and

malaria," said Zackie Achmat of the Treatment Action Campaign in South Africa.

"What we're seeing here is a betrayal of what the Fund was invented for in the first place. Rich countries cannot be allowed to simply sentence 30 million people with HIV to death because they prefer to focus on cheaper diseases," said Evan Ruderman of the Health GAP Coalition. "There is no reason for the Fund to wait to deliver vital medicines and start turning the tide while global comprehensive plans guidelines are developed over the next year."

The proposals being debated by the Global Fund board members fail to address proposals for treatment programs, or for the

**Continued on page 34**



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*or **Shawn** at Living Positive at 488-5768.*

*or email [lpadmin@telusplanet.net](mailto:lpadmin@telusplanet.net)*



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# Lambda Christian Community Church

It is so easy, as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians to lose sight of the deeper purpose of Christmas. We who often are regulated to the fringes of church and society, can fail to grasp the depth of the Christmas message, a message that is truly meant as much for us as for anyone else, maybe even more so.

So what's in the Christmas celebration for GLBT Christians? Into our frightened and fragile world, a world broken and wounded, God decided to dispel the shadows and drive out the fear.

How? Wrapped in the tender flesh of a shivering newborn baby. Jesus entered our world without the trappings of divinity so as to take on the powerlessness of humanity. And he came as an outsider. He came as the son of a working man, a member of an oppressed people. Because of this, Jesus understands us and our needs, our cries for liberation, our fears and the abuse that is often part of our lives. And Christmas is the time to be reminded of new life and be invited to enter the stable, to find life.

Anyone who has been injured by vicious uses of scripture to demean and denounce, come to the stable.

Anyone who has been made to feel like "damaged goods" because of their sexuality, come

to the stable.

Anyone who has been beaten down by lies and innuendo, been rejected by family and friends, come to the stable. To any and all who have been made to feel that they are an abomination, that the God who created them now loathes them, that Jesus' love does not extend to them, I say come to that stable and enter in. Look into the newborn face of Jesus of Nazareth. You will not find a look of anger there, a look of condemnation, or a look of denial. You will find one *like* us.

Jesus knew what being an outsider meant He would experience the prickly rejection in his life of the religious authorities, and he would know their condemnation. He started life in a stable because of the insensitivity and blindness of others. He would end his earthly life pinned naked to the humiliating wood of the cross because of the rigidity and hatred of those who had God firmly in their back pocket—or so they thought.

Jesus knows full well what his GLBT brothers and sisters endure. But his coming also sends us this message: God has not, *cannot*, and *will not* abandon us. He came to us as a baby because there is nothing to fear from one so tiny. No, the Infant Jesus, like the adult Jesus, came for those who have been threatened and beaten down and brutalized. He experienced it first hand so that we could bring our pain to him and find healing from one who understands.

What are you in Jesus' eyes? Madly loved! You are his

beloved brother or sister, someone Jesus can never stop loving. Christmas: What's in it for us? Something that is ours—"tidings of comfort and joy," a joy the world cannot give, a comfort it can never take away.

A very merry, joyful and holy Christmas to you all!

## Christmas & Advent Worship & Events Schedule

November 30: Friday @ 7:30 PM Youth Group  
December 2: 7 PM First Sunday of Advent – Hope World AIDS Day Sunday  
December 7: Friday @ 7:30 PM Youth Group  
December 9: 7 PM Second Sunday of Advent – Peace

## Youth Service

December 16: 7 PM Third Sunday of Advent – Joy  
December 20: Thursday @ 7 PM

Carol Singing and refreshments with the residents of Garneau United Place

December 21: Friday @ 7:30 PM Youth Group  
December 23: 7 PM Third Sunday of Advent – Love  
December 24: Christmas Eve

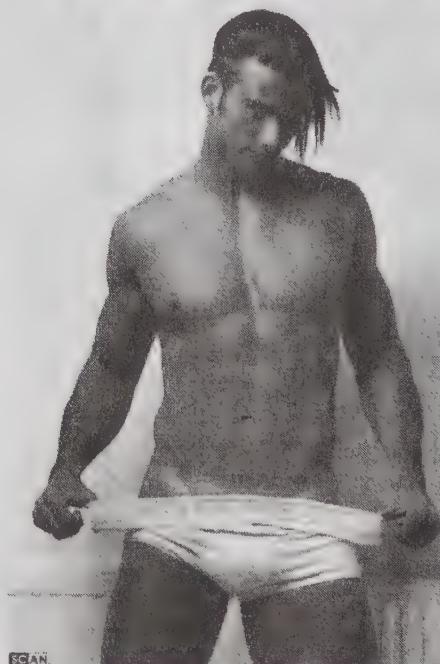
7 PM - Family Service (Lambda & Garneau United)

9 PM - Lambda's Christmas Eve Service (the Christmas story presented in music & movement)

10:30 – Carol Sing with hot apple cider  
11 PM – Candlelight Communion Service

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## Hearing Problems

A man told his doctor, "I don't think my wife's hearing is as good as it used to be. What should I do?" The doctor replied, "Try this test first. When your wife is at the sink doing dishes, stand fifteen feet behind her and ask her a question. If she doesn't respond, keep moving closer, asking the question until she hears you."

He went home and saw his wife preparing dinner. Standing fifteen feet behind her he said, "What's for dinner, honey?" Hearing no reply, he moved up to ten feet behind her and repeated the question. Still no reply, so he moved to five feet. Finally he stood directly behind her and said, "Honey, what's for dinner tonight?" She turned around and yelled in his face, "For the fourth time, I SAID CHICKEN, you deaf old goat!"

## The Kangaroo

A kangaroo kept getting out of his enclosure at the zoo. Knowing that he could hop pretty high, the zoo officials put up a ten-foot fence. However, the next morning the kangaroo was out again, just roaming around the zoo. The zoo officials raised the height of the fence to twenty feet. Again, however, the next morning the kangaroo was again roaming around the zoo.

This kept on, night after night, until the fence was sixty feet high. Finally, the camel in the next enclosure asked the kangaroo, "How high do you think they'll go?" The kangaroo replied, "Probably a hundred feet, unless somebody starts locking the gate at night!"

## The Chairperson

Our architectural school had been without a department chairperson for two years, and students were growing frustrated at the lengthy process of choosing a new candidate. Finally a group of students sent a message to the

dean. He arrived at school one morning to find 50 seats stacked up in front of his office.

A sign read, "Pick a chair!"

## Freezer

Two men meet at the pearly gates of heaven. The first man says to the second, "Hey! How did you die?" The second man says, "I froze to death." "Wow that must be a terrible way to die. What's it feel like?" says the first man.

"Well at first it hurts," says the second man, "But after a while everything goes numb and it's very peaceful. Like drifting off to sleep almost. How did you die?" "Oh I had a heart attack," says the first man. "You see, I knew my wife was cheating on me. So I came home early one day to catch her in the act. I ran into her room but she was sitting there knitting. So I ran down to the basement and no one was there. I ran to the first floor but no one was there either. So I ran up the steps to the attic but just as I was halfway up the steps I had a massive heart attack and died." "How ironic," says the second man.

"Why's that?" Says the first. "If you'd only looked in the freezer then we'd both still be alive."

## Shipwrecked

A shipwrecked Scotsman finally washed ashore on a small island. As he regained consciousness on the beach, he noticed a beautiful, unclad nymphet standing over him. "Would you like some food?" she asked. The Scot hoarsely croaks, "Och, lassie, I havna' ittin a bite in a week noo and I am verra hungry!" She disappeared into the woods and quickly came back with a heaping helping of haggis. "Would you like something to drink?" she asked. "Och, aye! That haggis has made me verra hungry and I wad verra much like a drink!"

She disappeared into the woods again and returned. Sometime later with a

bottle of 75-year-old single-malt Scotch whiskey. The Scotsman was beginning to think that he was in heaven! Then, the unclad nymphet leaned towards him and said, "Would you like to play around?" "Och, lassie, don't tell me ye've got a golf course here too!"

## Brain Work

The businessman dragged himself home and barely made it to his chair before he dropped exhausted. His sympathetic wife was right there with a tall cool drink and a comforting word. "My, you look tired," she said. "You must have had a hard day today. What happened to make you so exhausted?" "It was terrible," her husband said. The computer broke down and we all had to do our own thinking."

## Rubber Gloves

A dentist was getting ready to clean an elderly lady's teeth. He noticed that she was a little nervous, so he began to tell her a story as he was putting on his surgical gloves. "Do you know how they make these rubber gloves?" She said, "No, I don't have any idea."

"Well," he spoofed, "down in Mexico they have this big building set up with a large tank of latex, and the workers are all picked according to hand size. Each individual walks up to the tank, dips their hands in and then walks around for a bit while the latex sets and dries right onto their hands! Then they peel off the gloves and throw them into the big 'Finished Goods Crate' and start the process all over again." She didn't laugh one bit.

Five minutes later, during the procedure, he had to stop cleaning her teeth because she burst out laughing. The old woman blushed and exclaimed, "I just suddenly thought about how they must make condoms!"

## Home Work

Antonio came home from school one day and walked into the kitchen. His grandma asked him, "Antonio, what did you learn in school today?"

Antonio replied, "Well, we learned about penises, and vaginas, and sexual intercourse, and masturbation."

Grandma hauled off and slapped Antonio, hard. He ran up to his room, crying. Antonio's mother walked in and cried, "Ma! Why did you go and hit Antonio!?" Grandma replied, "Well, I asked him what he learned in school today. He started talking about sex, and penises, and masturbation!" Antonio's mother said, "Ma! That's what they learn. It's called sex education!"

Well, Grandma felt bad about hitting Antonio, so she went upstairs to apologize. When she opened his bedroom door she found him on his bed masturbating. Without a blink, she said, "Antonio, when you're finished with your homework, come downstairs and talk to me."

### Horse and Chicken

A horse and a chicken are playing in a meadow. The horse falls into a mud hole and is sinking. He calls to the chicken to go and get the farmer to help pull him out to safety. The chicken runs to the farm but the farmer can't be found. So he drives the farmer's Mercedes back to the mud hole and ties some rope around the bumper.

He then throws the other end of the rope to his friend, the horse, and drives the car forward saving him from sinking! A few days later, the chicken and horse are playing

in the meadow again and the chicken falls into the mud hole. The chicken yells to the horse to go and get some help from the farmer.

The horse says, "I think I can stand over the hole!" So he stretches over the width of the hole and says, "Grab for my 'thingy' and pull yourself up." And the chicken did and pulled himself to safety.

The moral of the story: If you are hung like a horse, you don't need a Mercedes to pick up a chick.

### I have a Problem

One day a young man went to a pharmacy and asked the little old lady behind the counter if he could speak with the pharmacist. "I am the pharmacist," she informed him. "Oh, in that case forget it," he replied and started to leave.

"Young man," the lady said to him, "my sister and I have been pharmacists for forty years and there is nothing we haven't heard, so what is your problem?"

"Well," the young man said reluctantly, "I have a problem with erections. Once I get hard, it won't go down for hours and hours, no matter how much I masturbate or how many times I have intercourse! Please, can you give me something for it?" "I'll have to go in the back and talk to my sister," she informed him.

About ten minutes later she came back. "Young man, I have consulted with my sister and the best we can give you is \$600 a week and half interest in the pharmacy."

### Ladies Choice

A woman goes into a tattoo parlour and tells the tattoo artist that she wants a tattoo of a turkey on her right thigh just below her bikini line. She also wants him to put "Happy Thanksgiving" under the turkey. So the guy does it and it comes out looking really good.

The woman then instructs him to put a Santa tattoo with "Merry Christmas" up on her left thigh.

So the guy does it and it comes out looking good, too. As the woman is getting dressed to leave, the tattoo artist asks, "If you don't mind, could you tell me why you had me put such unusual tattoos on your thighs?" She says "I'm sick and tired of my husband complaining all

the time that there's nothing good to eat between Thanksgiving and Christmas!"

### ID

A man went to get his driver's license renewed. The line inched along for almost an hour until the man finally got his license. He inspected his photo for a moment and commented to the clerk, "I was standing in line so long, I ended up looking pretty grouchy in this picture."

The clerk looked at his picture closely. "It's okay," he reassured the man. "That's how you're going to look when the cops pull you over anyway."



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# Global AIDS

Continued from page 28

procurement or distribution of medicines. A concrete proposal that NGOs are making is for the Fund to start saving lives now, by putting vital HIV drugs into the hands of qualified field organizations through procurement and delivery systems already housed within UN agencies.

"Hospitals, clinics and workplaces in the field can immediately scale up effective treatment and care if they are given the HIV/AIDS drugs they can not afford," said Joseph Essombo, an AIDS doctor with the Ivory Coast Bouake Health Network.

"The fund must prioritize programs that quickly put critical medicines into the hands of the suffering," said Pearl Nwashili of Stop AIDS in Nigeria. "But the donor countries seem perfectly content that the Global Fund will not finance programs to start saving lives now, when 10,000 people with AIDS die each day."

The Doha declaration on Public Health affirms the rights of poor countries to bypass patents and purchase generic HIV medicines. "Even the World Trade Organization recognizes that economics can not dictate double standards on world health," said Gaelle Krikrian of ACT UP Paris. "The experience of doctors in the

field shows that HIV treatment is absolutely feasible in poor countries, and, since the advent of generic competition, entirely affordable".

The international group of NGOs will meet with Global Fund board members this week to demand:

\* GF must commit to saving the lives of people infected with AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by providing treatment. Treatment for AIDS must not be a lower priority than prevention, or treatment for TB or Malaria.

\* GF must prioritize, encourage and fast-track financing for provisions for AIDS medications at best world prices through international bidding and bulk procurement.

\* GF must agree that the Fund will quickly make funds for treatment available to any qualified care providers that can rapidly deliver treatment to people with AIDS tuberculosis and malaria.

\* GF must support the use of best world price and not restrict the use of affordable generic medicines to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria

\* GF must not use a shortage of resources to justify deadly ineffective measures such as HIV prevention in the absence of treatment. Donor countries must commit sufficient amounts to give the Global Fund, and make good on the promise made last June at the United Nations' Special General Assembly on AIDS to commit at least 10 billion USD a year to the global fight against aids.

# Facing Up to AIDS

It is a human catastrophe like no other. Years in the making, it has gathered momentum like a runaway locomotive. At its epicentre, in the countries of East and Southern Africa, it is threatening to lay to waste entire segments of society.

Unlike other natural calamities, which announce themselves with the drama of a hurricane or an earthquake, AIDS has slipped in quietly, sheathed in shame and misinformation. Far from receiving an outpouring of sympathy and support, its victims are often stigmatized, abused, and neglected.

The impact is being felt by every business and institution, co-operatives included, in those countries that are most severely affected. Co-operatives are facing the loss of skilled employees and valued members. Credit unions are being forced to abandon life insurance programs for members — traditional actuarial tables were never constructed to deal with a catastrophe of this magnitude. Loan repayment rates are being affected — a substantial number of borrowers can be expected to become ill or die.

Co-operative involvement in this tragedy goes well beyond simple business imperatives. As institutions committed to

the social and economic well being of members, they have a responsibility to their members and their communities to do what they can to ease the suffering. But co-operatives can hardly be expected to solve the problem on their own — it will take the combined efforts of society as a whole to wrestle this crisis to its knees.

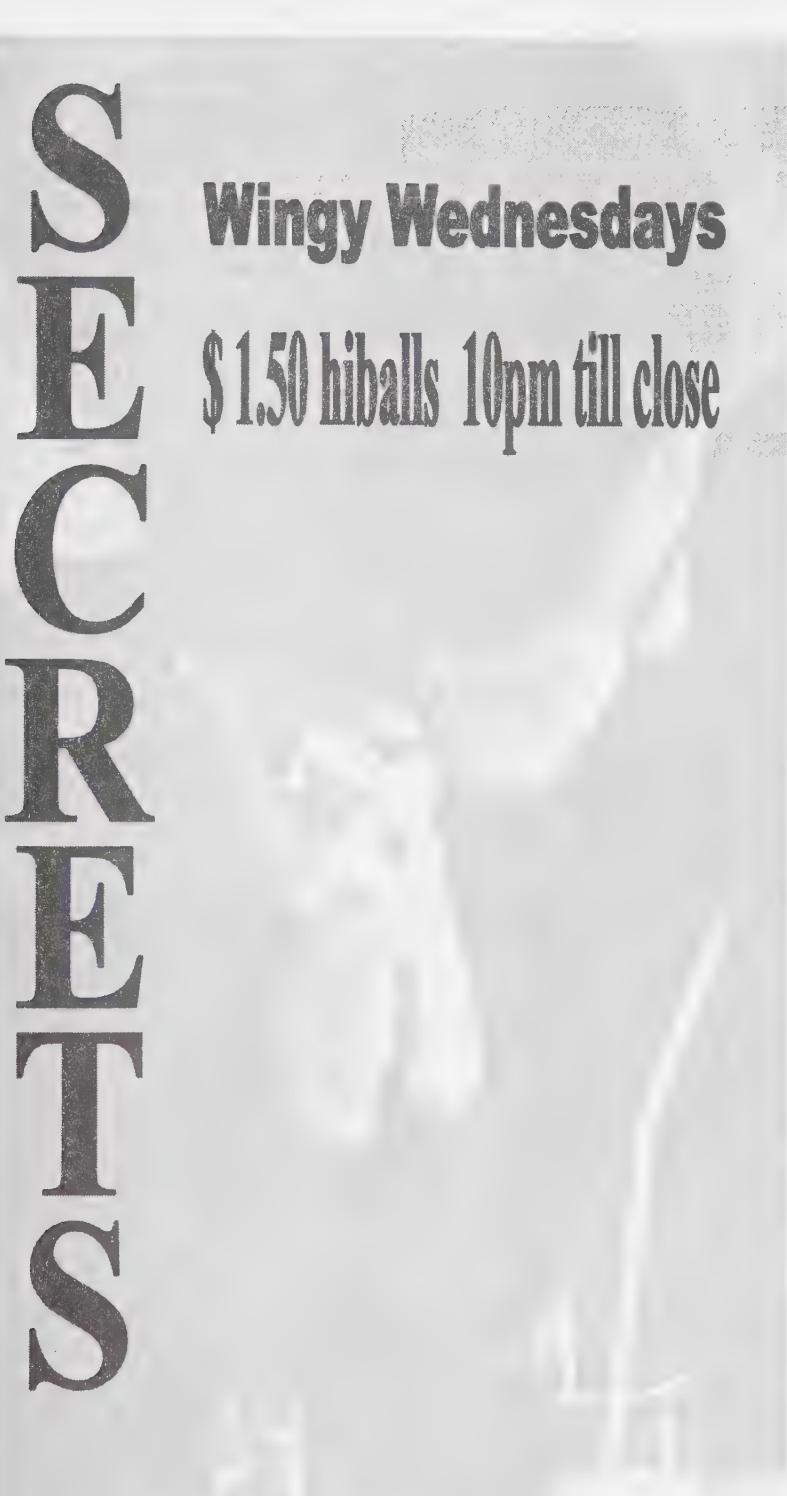
The numbers are horrific. AIDS has been with us for just 20 years, but already it is killing more people than any other infectious disease. In a single year, more than two million Africans died of AIDS, 10 times the number who perished in wars and armed conflict during the same period. More than 33 million people are already infected, with 16,000 new infections occurring every day. Ninety five per cent of infected people live in developing countries. There are 12 countries in sub-Saharan Africa where adult HIV infection rates are over 10 per cent. In Botswana and Zimbabwe, more than 25 per cent of young adults are HIV positive. In sub-Saharan Africa 55 per cent of the HIV positive adults are women, and 70 per cent of them are between the ages of 15 and 24. In Cote d'Ivoire a teacher dies of AIDS every day. Forty per cent of military personnel in Uganda are HIV positive, and the disease has left more than 11 million orphans, 90 per cent of them in Africa.

Most African cultures are built around the concept of strong extended families. It is not uncommon for children to be raised by aunts and uncles, grandparents and cousins. Yet in many families there are no living adults to

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care for children. The result is the growing phenomenon of child-headed households.

Africa may be hardest hit, but infection rates are increasing rapidly in China, India, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe. South Africa, which has long denied its growing AIDS crisis, is suffering some of the most dramatic AIDS-related social problems. The dark stigma surrounding AIDS has limited the spread of accurate information about the disease. A succession of harmful myths continues to circulate in the country. One of the most devastating, which still holds sway in some areas, is that infected men can cure themselves by having sex with virgin children. The result is an epidemic of child rape, with the added consequence that many of the young victims are also infected - tragedy is compounding tragedy.

**"Senator Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, searching for a way to communicate the 22 million deaths from AIDS and 36.1 million people now infected, recently said, 'Suppose we woke up tomorrow morning and learned that every single man, woman, and child, every single person, in Miami, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Denver, Boston, Seattle, Washington, D.C., New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, San Diego, Detroit, and Dallas, combined, were infected with a virus for which there was no cure. Don't you think that we would respond as rapidly and with the kind of finances as we did after Sept. 11th?'"**

In June, Stephen Lewis, the United Nations Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa was invited to speak at CCA's latest co-operative congress. He acknowledged the contribution that co-operatives can make to this fight.

"Humanity is facing the greatest single crisis this planet has faced in 700 years. There is nothing that has, in such a staggering way, shredded the economic, social, cultural, and human infrastructure of country after country, particularly in East and Southern Africa . . . Because of the crisis, which has never seen its equal since the middle ages in the Black Death, the co-operative movement has an extraordinary contribution to make at the grass roots level in country after country under siege."

# Maryland Anti- Discrimination Law Goes into Effect

Referendum Petition  
Withdrawn in Response to  
ACLU Lawsuit

Gays and lesbians in Maryland will have immediate equal protection in housing, employment and accommodations today as the state's Anti-Discrimination Act of 2001 goes into effect. A delay in the effective date of the law

(October 1, 2001) occurred when "TakeBackMaryland," a group seeking to deny equal protection to gays and lesbians in Maryland filed petitions to put the measure on the fall 2002 ballot.

The ACLU of Maryland filed suit, charging that the referendum petitions filed by TakeBackMaryland did not meet the state constitutional standards for taking a popularly passed law to referendum.

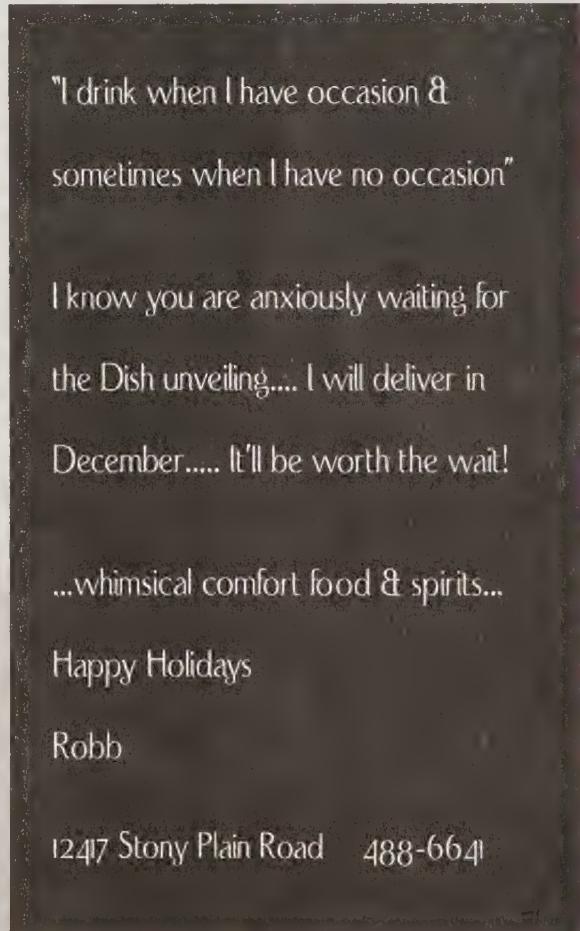
TakeBackMaryland stipulated today that they did not have enough valid signatures for a referendum under Maryland law. Under Maryland law, today's stipulation means that the Anti-Discrimination Act is now forever safe from referendum challenges.

"This is an enormous victory for Maryland gays and lesbians who now can live free from prejudice," said Dwight Sullivan, Managing Attorney for the ACLU of Maryland's Baltimore office. "This is also a victory for all Marylanders as the Free State becomes one of just 12 states (plus D.C.) that bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

The Anti-Discrimination Act was passed by the General Assembly in the spring of 2001 by approximately a 2-to-1 margin after 11 years of failed attempts. The bill was also passed after Governor Parris Glendening's Special Commission to Study Sexual

Orientation Discrimination heard evidence of rampant discrimination against gays and lesbians statewide. This landmark civil rights legislation passed thanks to the work of a large and diverse group of advocates, including the ACLU, acting in its role as the state's foremost civil rights organization. Governor Glendening signed the bill on May 15, 2001.

Dwight Sullivan led the ACLU's efforts in the case, *Gelbman v. Willis*. Co-counsel are Art Spitzer of the ACLU of the National Capital Area and D. Jean Veta, Charles J. Butler and Chad Tang, pro bono attorneys from the Washington, D.C. law firm of Covington & Burling.



WORLD AIDS CAMPAIGN  
2001



"If I am disappointed with a tape, we shoot it again. But with AIDS, the movie's over.  
It's up to you and me to break the silence."

Danny Glover, actor  
UNDP Goodwill Ambassador

"I believe that everyone - big and small - can make a difference in the fight against AIDS."

Ramona Belfiore,  
13-year-old girl living with HIV



Photo credit: UNAIDS/Rolan Holland

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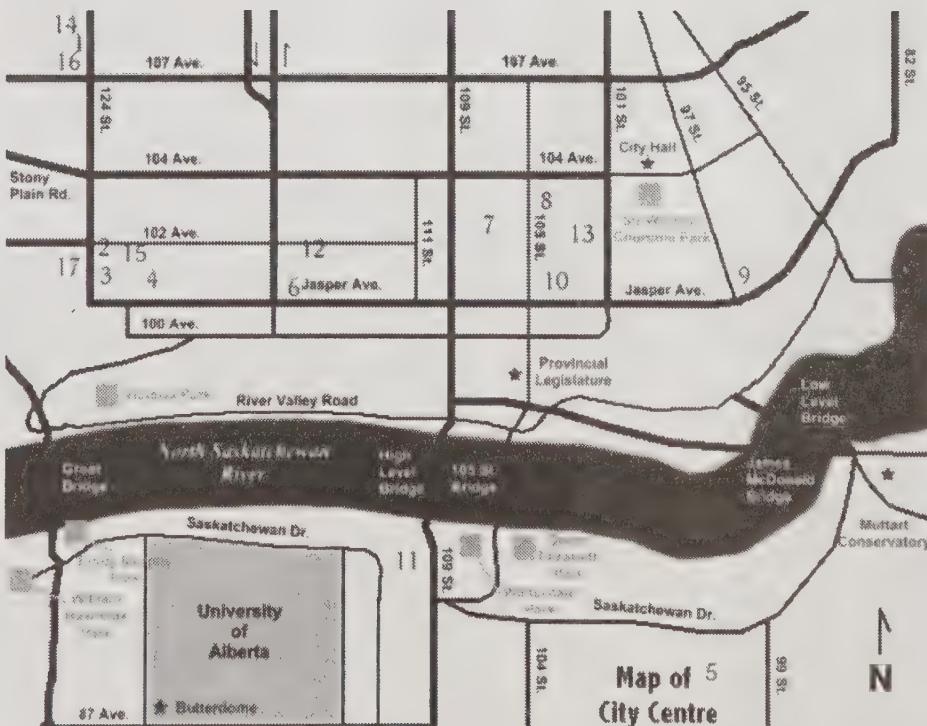
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# Only One



Every so often we enjoy doing an interview with one of our Internet friends and musicians who we have met via Times.10 Radio. Since we have been playing the music of DJ Cobra for some time we wanted to get to know more about him and his music.

Peter Agyagos (aka DJ Cobra) started composing electronic music for many years but it was not until the past two years that he started publishing it. We gotta know him on MP3.com along with many other excellent musicians. Although he first started with the piano Peter says

he could not resist the purchase of his first electronic keyboards. That was in 1998 went he purchased his first PC and Yamaha keyboards.

As we know from the world of music many good

things with all of his music. It is upbeat and very danceable along with some remixes that are creations from his heart and mind. Peter even adds his own voice to a number of his songs.



musicians have never taken any formal lessons and DJ Cobra is in the same group. His music reflects a fun loving kind of person who tries new

DJ Cobra is doing all of this while he is still attending University in the Slovak Republic. Although his has not done any live shows due to his studies he will consider it after graduating next year. Some offers have come in from clubs in Slovakia and the Czech Republic so far. Peter puts it this way, "if

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any serious offers come in I will consider them."



**F**amily and friends mean a lot to him and they offer a great source of inspiration for his music. Through it, along with other sources, his music has a special characteristic that can be found only in his songs.

"Only One is special for me" says Peter when asked about it. He decided to filter his own voice in a similar way to Eiffel 65 when he made this song. The song was composed in April 2001 and will soon be released in an Extended Version.

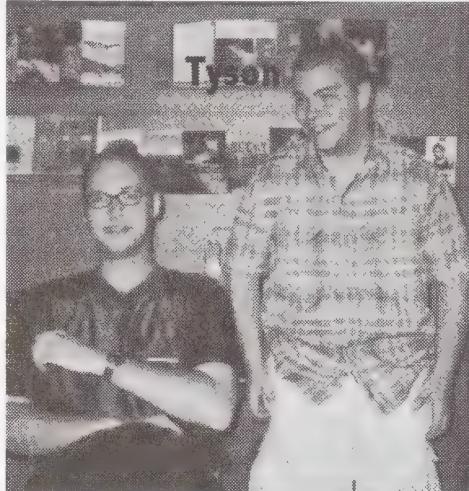
You can listen or download many of his songs on MP3.Com by going to the following address:  
<http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/116/djcobra.html>. Of course you can do DJ Cobra a bigger favour when you purchase his CD. You can listen to it right away once you have paid for it.

**You will not be disappointed by his music should you be into some fun and enjoy something different from the dance music you usually get to hear. Kewl!**

# Deep From North Australia

Hello everybody

Just a quick note to say hi etc. Holidays are coming up real soon; hope everyone has fun blah, blah, blah. I'm not in a bad mood just early for me right at this moment.



need someone to tape that for me.

Oh and to let you know, I looked at the thermometer than I had my smoke this morn and it must be broken 'cause it was reading 46C and I was sweating so it couldn't have been more than 42C.

Should have my membership for Mardi Gras in 2ish weeks, if timed properly my trip to Sydney will consider with Melbourne Pride, and that should be fun :o)

Blah, blah, blah,  
Bye for now.

But bye for now the rest of you

**Tyson**

So do you miss me? I know y'all do and I don't blame ya LOL.

Ok so my reason for writing today: caught a bit of ET the other day and there is something I NEED taped for me, did I say need, I mean it is more important than food or water at this moment. There is going to be a reunion show for the Facts Of Life (you know "you take the good, you take the bad etc"), well I



# Official Opposition Calls on Govern- ment to Eliminate User Fee on Dying

The Alberta Official Opposition has called on the government to

eliminate charges for palliative health care. Extra costs being charged for a hospice bed add to the stress levels and worries of dying patients and their families. The Official Opposition believes that it is a matter of simple human compassion to get ride of this user fee on dying.

A dying patient may end up in one of four levels of care: home care, hospice, acute care or tertiary. In acute or tertiary care there are no costs to the patient. However, patients and their families

do face costs for a hospice bed or home care.

The goal of encouraging efficient operation of the system is contradicted by the imposition of barriers such as increased costs on those who are using less of the system's resources.

Discrepancies among RHAs charging patients for hospice care are unfair. Inconsistencies among RHAs in charging patients for hospice care also means Albertans pay more depending on where they live. In

Calgary, costs for a hospice bed for the dying are over \$25 a day. In Edmonton, the charge is \$16 a day. In Lethbridge there is no charge.

Palliative care programs allow people to die with dignity, under the care of compassionate staff that assists with everything from pain control to pastoral issues.

The Official Opposition is calling on the government to standardize the level of care being provided to dying patients and eliminate this fee.

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# Shall we Ask - What is a friend?

This word was actually harder to define than I thought it would be. To get started, I checked the dictionary that stated a friend is "a person who knows and likes another, a person who favours and supports and a person who belongs to the same side or group."

By those definitions I have hundreds, maybe thousands, of friends, but I truly believe it goes beyond these

definitions. A friend must do much more than like you. To me, a friend is someone who knows all about you and likes you anyway. Being a friend means more than recognizing that no one is perfect, it means accepting it. I, like most people, have many flaws. My true friends not only tolerate these weaknesses but love me because of them. They either help me see them myself without dwelling on them or they even help me to overcome some of these weaknesses. A friend is someone who doesn't ask you to change but helps you to grow.

The most important quality a friend can demonstrate is loyalty. This means standing by you when the going gets a little rough, not just in the good times. It means standing up for you at all times, not letting others demean you in any way, and never taking

advantage of you or treating you badly.

Being supportive is yet another important quality in a friendship. This means cheering for you when things go your way, and being there during the bad times. Good friends allow you to make mistakes that you can learn from and forgive you for them. Loyalty, support, honesty and acceptance are so important to me that I would rather have 5 friends that fit my definition as opposed to 1000 "friends" that fit the dictionary definition.

Unlike family, we choose our friends. If your "friends" aren't all of the things that are important to you, then you should ask yourself why you are calling them a friend.

- Eilish Murphy

A friend would be someone

who takes you as you are, helps you when he/she can, tells you when you're so far out to lunch that you're into next week's breakfast. He is someone in who you can confide some of your deepest, darkest secrets, has broad shoulders to cry on, should the need arise, and will be there for you, no matter what the situation, to offer whatever they can.

Somewhat sappy, maybe, but there you have it. Hope it helps.

- Walter Medak

Tonight my Friend, Norbert is coming to town and we'll get to spend some time together.

My Friend...what a pair of words! We have lots of acquaintances, a lover or two, and a few friends, but usually

Continued on page 45

## Coming in Early December

[www.strokeoffection.com](http://www.strokeoffection.com)

10% of Net Revenue will go to the New Gay Community Trust Fund

# Arthritis Society Event Goes Well...



# A Friend

Continued from page 43

we only have one or two Friends. It's more than just someone you see socially, more than a person whose company you enjoy.

No, a Friend is someone more. Norbert and I share history. We have known each other since High School. We've seen each other through more changes in life than anyone except our families and because we are not family, we offer different perspectives. We see them in the context of having been kids growing into men together. That counts for something. We've worked long into the night together, we've dated together, we've overindulged together, we've been jerks together, and we survived it. A real, deep and

abiding love has grown.

This affection is unconditional. It's solid. We can build on it. It would take a major league betrayal to harm it. Knowing that, we can speak freely about our lives, our hopes, and our fears. The other will listen, applaud, encourage or empathize as necessary. And sometimes we'll laugh and prick the balloons of each other's pomposity when warranted.

We see each other twice a year, once here and once in Montreal. We don't often talk in between, but that doesn't matter. We just pick up where we left off. I know he is out there. If I need him, he'll be there to support me... He always has been in the past. I'd like to think that I have also served this

friendship well, that I haven't been just a taker. He says I have, and I guess I believe him. All I know is that I would hate to lose him...but then with 25 years and counting, it feels like a safe bet.

So tonight we'll have a nice dinner and then take a long walk. We'll reminisce a little, catch up a little and talk about things important and trivial...just like we always do. Then we'll hug, take leave of one another grateful that we each have a Friend..

- Brian Kiely

- Unitarian Church of Edmonton

I must admit that when Dennis asked me; "What is a Friend", I thought it was going to be a quick ten to fifteen minute exercise. After all, I taught for years, and I always gave my students this assignment. In retrospect, I was too tough on them - this is not an easy task.

I have come away from this experience with a new sense of "What is a Friend." A friend is someone who is your equal in the hierarchy of life. He is someone who promotes you, your ideas and your personality to others while willingly participating in your life with interest and anticipation. Friends are not afraid to furnish you with criticism or provide mediation for an opinion they retain as equal and as sane as your own. A true friend assumes many roles in your life and is always willing to be a buddy, chum, confidant, ally, counselor and partner. A friend is honored with the same knowledge that you harbor in the dusty shelves of your own thoughts, never meant to be public with anyone

except God and those who need to know. The daily reflection in your mirror must be the exact same "friend" or he will be tough to identify, find, and keep.

- Bob Mills

The question of friends and friendship has been raised in this issue in a special way, on lots of levels. After much pondering, I found my answer after lunch with a good friend - when I left, even though we had had some talks about some hard stuff, we had laughed lots, and as I shared a big hug, I felt hopeful. Not in any specific way, just generally. A sense that the world really is an all right place to be and that it will continue to be an all right place. - Liz Massiah

I know this must be late but defining a friend is easy.

A friend is someone you care about, someone that cares about you. A friend is someone you can make happy, and likewise can make you happy too. A friend is someone you enjoy sharing with and likewise shares with you. A friend is someone you enjoy the company of and likewise likes spending time with you.

A friend is someone you can ask for help and doesn't expect a return. A friend is someone you are willing to trust and who trusts you. A friend is someone you can forgive even though he let you down because he'd do the same for you.

A friend is anyone that is willing to be a friend.

Anyway that is my two minutes on the subject of friend. Doesn't everyone know what a friend is?

- Love Ken

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## i saw you...

Box 1911: The date was Sunday October 14 at the Kinsmen Steel house about 5:30 in the men's locker room. I was getting ready for my work out, you had come in to take off a layer of clothes. My locker number was 20, yours was 21. We then saw each other upstairs in the weight room. We exchanged glances several times. There appeared to be some interest. Later I saw you in the general shower area. You asked me how I was doing and I said fine. I like what I saw. You're about 6', 180lb, nice-looking, nice build. If you're interested in man-to-man action then let's set something up. Discreet assured.

Box 2051: Hey Bobby, this is the big guy out in Stoney Point. This is a huge long shot trying to locate you this way, but I fucked up when I told you that. I didn't want to see you anymore, I do. What can I say? Hopefully we can pick up where we left off.

## romance

Box 1847: I'm 35, 6', 185lb, brown hair, blue eyes, down-to-earth guy, like going for long walks, movies, going out for dinner, dancing once in a while or spending a quiet evening at home. Looking to meet a guy who has his head on his shoulders, knows what he wants in life. I'm not into head games, what you see is what you get and I expect the same.

Box 1891: I'm a white gay male, 22, 5'10", 120lb, brown hair and eyes, out of the city, back in March. Looking to get back into the dating scene.

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### total tops

Box 1910: I'm 37, 6', 175lb, good-looking, good shape, flat stomach, bi-curious, very discreet, safe, 6" uncut, shaved, would try anything. Looking for a good-looking guy also, slim, my age or less. I'm Native.

Box 1997: I'm 28, gay white male, brown hair and eyes, 5'8", 160lb. Looking for a male 25-35. I'm easy going, like to laugh a lot. Looking for someone who has their head on their shoulders, not looking for games.

### one night stands

Box 1862: It's Michael, 5'10", 195lb, brown curly hair, blue eyes, mustache, mid-30s, smooth body, 7" uncut, muscular build, 48" chest, 32" waist, 18" arms, great ass. Looking for one or two top guys, somebody who loves to get their cock sucked, loves to be fucked, bottom, trying to see if there's anyone who can entertain in the Edmonton area. One would do, two would be better, looking for someone over 8", cut or uncut.

Box 1903: This is Gary, 50 year old submissive male looking to meet other males, or female/male couples, or male couples. I am very submissive.

Box 1935: This hot, smooth, 18 year old, brown hair, 130lb, slim, 7-1/2". Looking for a guy, under 30, slim, toned, muscular, that can travel. I'm into fucking, and sucking.

Box 1959: Interested in men who are serious and want to get their rocks off. I'm 5'10", 155lb, pretty sensitive guy, I've travelled a lot, so I'm pretty open to different cultures and different ways of doing things. I'm not exactly sure what I'm looking for. I guess I would like to meet some men and with them determine how we would like to relate. Generally attracted to guys late 20s-early 40s, like men who are pretty sensitive and laid back.

Box 1979: 24 year old guy, 6', 195lb, hairy chest, hairy legs, 6-1/2" uncut dick. Looking for another guy in his 20s, who's good-looking, well-endowed, likes to give and receive, discreet.

### group scenes & public sex

Box 178: 23, bisexual submissive bottom, looking for dominant, aggressive, older top guys for group action. The more top guys the better, I want to get gang fucked. I love to suck cock, I like a guy to feed me his cock, love ass play, and maybe get fucked. Love having guys shoot their load on my face or in my mouth.

Box 1895: White male, 5'10", very submissive, 190lb, have a 6" cut cock. Looking for someone who would like to train me as a slave boy and give me some old fashioned discipline.

### total tops

Box 2801: Submissive, cheeky bottom boy, seeking a dominant top. I am into various scenes of BD, watersports, verbal abuse and bootlicking. I'm 5'8", 37, heavyset, shaved head, pierced nipples.

### bears & big men

Box 2237: 46, single white man. I am a big bear, 5'11", 300lb, hairy body but clean-shaven. I don't smoke, don't do drugs, and drink very little. I have short brown hair, brown eyes, and wear glasses. Large, masculine acting male and pretend to be very tough and macho, but really I am very submissive and somewhat of a sissy. I am looking for another male who would enjoy dominating a large man and forcing him to become an effeminate little sissy and servant. The thought of this scares me, having to dress like a sissy and act like one, having to filter out about acting extremely feminine or else being punished and disciplined or humiliated by another male.

### fetishes, kink & launch

Box 1856: Conan, hot 18 year old guy from west Vancouver looking to chat with anyone who wants to chat, get together and party. Don't be shy!

Box 1907: 27, 120lb, 6', bottom, looking for guys 25-40 who can entertain. I am into anything, I like sporty guys, D&D free, I like to suck big guys and let them fuck my ass.

### first-timers & bi guys

Box 1153: Bi male, attached, submissive, likes to wear panty hose and panties. Love to do oral, rimming, body contact. Very open-minded.

Box 1920: I'm 6'2" 235lb, 44, attached bisexual, would like to find someone for an ongoing relationship.

Box 1924: I'm John, 36, 7" cut cock. It's been a few years since I've been out and about, but the idea really turns me on. Get back to me.

Box 2081: I'm Scott, new to this, 5'8", 180lb, stocky build, short brown hair, blue eyes, considered attractive. Looking to please and get pleased.

### transsexual & transgender relationships

Box 1838: This is Hanna, 24, pre-op transsexual. New to Edmonton, lived here before, just came back. I'm looking for open-minded, bisexual men, 18-26 only. I'm 100% passable. Looking for someone to go clubbing with, have some fun, maybe a longterm relationship.

Box 2014: I'm Candy, tall, slim, discreet, submissive crossdresser looking for dominant males, like to give oral and receive anal.

### shemales & crossdressers

Box 1350: I'm 41, 6'1" 225, hairy, 7" shaved and cut. I enjoy the company of TVs and cross-dressers, even if it's just a coffee or casual meet-

ing, or if it's a sexual nature. I am available most mornings, considered good-looking, I like partial cross dressers, and panty boys. They turn me on and I like the company of feminine guys.

Box 1564: Attention shoppers: outstanding opportunity for mature males. This opportunity for men 40+ and is available right now. I am a good-looking, clean, responsible fellas who is honest and very discreet. I am looking for a sex life, a friend and lover. Someone I can get together with on a regular basis. I am very affectionate and enjoy a lot of body contact. I prefer a feminine role and enjoy wearing and modelling sexy lingerie. I am quite adventurous, can entertain most mornings, some evenings, and weekends. I can also travel. I am in my late 40s. I live in the West end. If you are in your 40s and want to be my sex buddy, don't delay, call today.

Box 1855: 22 year old native male. I'm looking for someone who can help me in the art of cross-dressing. I have a little bit of lingerie and I want someone to help me in being passable.

Box 1870: 33, 5'11", 195lb, brown hair, hazel eyes, 7" cut, well maintained, clean-shaven, slightly hairy. Looking for a female transsexual for a first anal encounter. I have some experience and would like to explore some more. Age and race are no barrier. Must be clean, discreet and cut.

Box 2006: I'd like to get together with you. I have fantasized about having a good time with a she-male or TV, and I would like to fulfill the fantasy. I want to feel you deep in my ass after I suck you off. I want to stuff my cock deep inside you and make you come.

Box 2016: 25 year old cross-dresser, looking for anybody traveling through. I love to get with other cross dressers, or guys who enjoy being with cross dressers. I am very open-minded, very horny and lonely, so if you are coming through this way, let me know.

Box 2040: Very curious and interested in meeting crossdressers and she-males, so let's chat and I'll tell you all about my cross dressing.

Box 2114: George, looking for a she-male, never been with one before and have always wanted to be. I have a nice big 7-1/2" cock, perhaps yours and I can play.

Box 2282: Very attractive feminine transgender person with great legs. Loves to play with other people like myself or who admire TVs. I am shaved and smooth, toned and slim, I love lingerie, hard cocks and cum. I am looking for a guy who can entertain.

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